

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 NIC-01 EB-11 COME-00

DRC-01 /134 W

----- 076988

R 091545Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2335

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG ETRD EMIN FI UR

SUBJ: KEKKONEN VISITS SOVIET KARELIA WHILE FINNISH FOREIGN TRADE
MINISTER NEGOTIATES IN MOSCOW

REF: A) HELSINKI 1688; B) HELSINKI 1355

1. SUMMARY: OVOER SEPT. 7/8 WEEKEND SOVIET PRESS CARRIED BRIEF
REPORTS OF ARRIVAL SEPT. 7 OF FINNISH PRESIDENT KEKKONEN AT
KPSTOMUKSHA (KOSTANUS), KARELIAN ASSR, TO VISIT MINING COMPLEX
BEING CONSTRUCTED THERE BY FINNISH FIRMS, AND ALSO OF ECONOMIC
NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY IN MOSCOW BETWEEN SOVIETS AND FINNISH
DELEGATION LED BY MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE LAINE. END SUMMARY.

2. KEKKONEN VISIT TO KOSTOMUKSHA IS REPORTED TO BE ON BASIS OF
INVITATION FROM SOVIET GOVERNMENT. ON ARRIVAL HE WAS MET BY USSR
MINISTER OF FERROUS METALLURGY I.P. KAZANETS, CHAIRMAN OF KARELIAN
ASSR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS A.A. KOCHETOV AND HEAD OF USSR MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS SCANDINAVIAN SECTION N.D. BYELOKHVOSTIKOV.

3. IN MOSCOW FINNISH MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE JERMA LAINE
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MET SEPT. 4 THROUGH 6 WITH SOVIET MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE

PATOLICHEV TO DISCUSS NEW 1976-80 LONG-TERM TRADE AND PAYMENTS AGREEMENT, AND ALSO WITH S.A. SKAHCKOV, CHAIRMAN OF SOVIET STATE COMMITTEE FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS, ON SUBJECT OF "DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION IN AREA OF ENERGY." PRAVDA SEPT. 9 REPORTS DEPARTURE FOR HELSINKI SEPT. 8 OF SOVIET DELEGATION LED BY PATOLICHEV TO CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS ON NEW FIVE-YEAR TRADE AGREEMENT. WHILE IN HELSINKI, PATOLICHEV DELEGATION WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE IN NEXT MEETING OF PERMANENT FINNISH-SOVIET INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

4. ONLY EDITORIAL COMMENT APPEARS IN TASS VESTNIK WHICH NOTES APPROVINGLY THAT SOVIET-FINNISH TRADE IS GROWING STEADILY, HAD TOTAL TURNOVER OF ABOUT ONE BILLION DOLLARS IN 1973, MAKING FINLAND SOVIET UNION'S SECOND LARGEST TRADING PARTNER IN WESTERN EUROPE. (FRG WAS FIRST)

5. COMMENT: ABSENCE SO FAR OF HIGH SOVIET LEADERSHIP CONTACT WITH KEKKONEN IMPLIES THAT VISIT MAY BE PRIMARILY PERSONAL AFFAIR TO INSPECT KOSTOMUKSHA COMPLEX AND ALSO FOR SOME FISHING (HELSINKI'S REFTEL A). NEGOTIATIONS FOR NEW LONG-TERM TRADE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO FINNS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO BRING GROWING TRADE DEFICIT WITH USSR UNDER CONTROL. THERE HAS BEEN NO INDICATION OF ANY DISCUSSION OF PRICE THEY WILL PAY FOR SOVIET CRUDE (REF B), AND SUBJECT OF "ENERGY COOPERATION" IN LAINE TALKS WITH SKAHCKOV IMPLIES ELECTRIC POWER OR NATURAL GAS.
DUBS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, CONSTRUCTION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, MINING INDUSTRY, MINING CONCESSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOSCOW13686
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740250-0934
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740964/aaaacbr.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) HELSINKI 1688; B) HELSINKI 1355
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <10 MAR 2003 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KEKKONEN VISITS SOVIET KARELIA WHILE FINNISH FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER NEGOTIATES IN MOSCOW
TAGS: ENRG, ETRD, EMIN, FI, UR, (KEKKONEN, URHO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005